

Parent Involvement Policy

Virginia School for the Deaf and the Blind
Staunton, Virginia

Dr. Nancy Armstrong, Superintendent
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Summary of Services

- VSDB-S serves sensory impaired children from ages 3 – 21 who live in the Commonwealth of Virginia.
- Residential and day services are provided to children with deafness or blindness as the primary disability. Children with secondary disabilities may be served at VSDB.
- High School students are offered all diploma options.
- All students are tested using the Virginia Assessment Standards.
- VSDB-S is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools.
- Students have the option to attend Valley Vocational Technical School for vocational training with peers without disabilities, as well as opportunities in local public schools to take accredited classes.
- Students have the opportunity to be evaluated through the Post Secondary Educational Rehabilitative Training (PERT) at Woodrow Wilson Rehabilitation Center and the Department of Rehabilitation Services.
- VSDB-S offers evaluation/consultation services to local school divisions.

Goals for Parent Involvement

- Parents are able to visit their child at any time.
- Complete all forms and permission to authorize necessary emergency medical and dental treatment, as well as other permission forms parents are asked to sign.
- Be responsible for the care and supervision of their child on weekends, holidays and vacations per the annual school calendar.
- Provide age appropriate, weather appropriate clothing and toiletries needed by the child while at the VSDB-S.
- Notify the Admission Coordinator of any change in address, phone number, custody, or significant change in parent status pertaining to their child.
- Notify the Student Life Office of upcoming student absences with 24 hours (or earlier if known) of the initiation of the student's bus/transportation schedule. *Please note that all buses are equipped with telephones for emergency purposes.

Parent Programs

- Attendance and Annual Meeting on Registration Day
- Deaf Connection/Blind Connection
- Parent Services Agreement
- Sign Language Tape Lending Library
- Facilitate Parent/Educator Resource Center Roster
- Virginia Guide and Hand in Hand
- Regional Meetings at 4 sites around the state
- Annual IEP meeting and triennial evaluations
- Extra-curricular activities including sports, music, and tournaments, social activities, art, intramural activities, drama for the deaf students, art shows, attendance at awards programs, graduation, extra club activities, child assault prevention programs

Annual Meeting on Registration Day

- Agenda must include:
 - Program information
 - Explanation of materials used and demonstration of teaching strategies
 - Introduction of Parent Involvement Policy
 - Technology Demonstration
 - Overview of Behavior Program
 - Introduction of Staff

Deaf Connection/Blind Connection

- A series of workshops, presentations, and events designed for families, professionals and paraprofessionals who work with sensory impaired children in any aspect of life.
- Provides helpful information and resources related to raising and working with children and to support families and professionals as they become partners in children's education.

Parent Services Agreement

- Service Agreements are reviewed and agreed upon annually at the IEP meeting.
- Service Agreements are a requirement of the admission process and placement at VSDB-S.

Video Tape Lending Library

- Shared Reading tapes and books
- Sign Language instructional video tapes
- Signed stories
- Informational videos about visual impairment

Facilitate Parent/Educator Resource Center Roster

- The purpose of the regional centers is to provide parents of children with disabilities the support and information they need as they work with the school system to identify and meet their child's unique learning needs. The parent resource centers offer support and assistance, a lending library, a parent newsletter, parent training workshops, and serve as an information and referral source for families and staff members.
- There are 54 parent resource centers across the Commonwealth
- The centers can be accessed through the VDOE website:

[Parent Resource Center](#)

Publications

Virginia Guide

The Virginia Guide is a VSDB-S publication that is distributed twice yearly to Parents, Members of the Board of Education, Staff at the Department of Education, Schools for the Deaf and Blind throughout the United States, and others highlighting student activities and achievements. Our spring/summer issue features our graduating seniors.

■ Hand in Hand

Hand in Hand is a VSDB-S publication that helps to keep our parents/guardians informed of school activities, upcoming calendar items, classroom and dormitory news, and other information parents need to know. It is published five times during the academic year, and mailed to parents/guardians of all VSDB students.

Communication

- Weekly/quarterly reports home
- Monthly dormitory activity calendar
- Yearly calendar

Communication Access

- Sorenson Relay (Video Phone In Student Life Office and IEP Office)
- Instant Messaging
- E-mail
- Sidekick
- Phone/TTY
- Relay Services
- Conference Calls
- Direct Parent Contact
- Virginia Department for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing and Department for the Blind and Visually Impaired Offices On Campus
- Website
- Translation of publications in language parents can understand
- Communicate through Local School Divisions
- Teacher Newsletters

Regional Meetings at 4 sites around the state

- Provide services in ASL, behavior programs, technology, connections for parents with community resources and families, parenting skills and special needs of children, and deaf and blind culture
- Collaboration with Local School Divisions

Annual IEP meeting and Triennial Evaluations

- VSDB-S follows all federal and state mandates for IDEA 2004.
- Parents, Local School Divisions, and others with knowledge of the child are invited to attend annual IEP meetings and re-evaluation meetings.
- Parents are informed of their child's level of academic achievement and how their child will participate in the Virginia Assessment Standards.
- Transition plans are discussed with each student who is 16 years of age and older.
- Parents are sent forms for their input.

Extra-curricular activities including sports, music, and tournaments

- Parents are invited to visit their child anytime on campus. During the school year there are numerous opportunities to participate in various activities including:
 - Classroom visitation
 - Dormitory visitation
 - Music concerts
 - Basketball games
 - Volleyball games
 - Soccer matches
 - Goalball matches
 - Mason Dixon Tournaments with deaf schools in the southeast
 - Dances
 - Drama performances
 - Alumni week-ends
 - Academic Bowl Competitions
 - Community Outings
 - Awards Ceremonies
 - Graduation
 - Homecoming
 - Art Shows